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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 to 39 are pending.

Claims 7, 8, 10, 26 to 29, 34 and 36 are canceled and claim 30 is allowed.

1. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 14 to 17, 21, 26, 31, 34, 36, 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,601,951). Independent claims 1, 17 and 31 have been amended to set forth that the negative electrode comprises an alkali metal "positioned between first and second current collectors, wherein a first anode material contacts the opposite side of the first current collector and a second anode material contacts the opposite side of the second current collector . . .". This amended claim language is believed to encompass allowable structure in view of Johnson et al., as indicated by the Examiner in numbered section 5 of the office action.

Accordingly, amended independent claims 1, 17 and 31 are believed to be patentable. Claims 3, 4, 14 to 17, 31, 38 and 39 are allowable as hinging from patentable base claims. Claims 7, 26, 34 and 36 are canceled.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

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2. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 13 to 17, 21, 22, 24, 26 to 29, 31, 34, 36, 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by McMillan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,506,524). Independent claims 1, 17 and 31 have been amended as discussed in section 1 above. This is believed to render them allowable in view of McMillan et al., as indicated by the Examiner in numbered section 5 of the office action.

Accordingly, amended independent claims 1, 17 and 31 are believed to be patentable. Claims 3, 4, 13 to 17, 21, 22, 24, 38 and 39 are allowable as hinging from patentable base claims. Claims 7, 10, 26 to 29, 34 and 36 are canceled.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

3. The Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claim 30.

4. Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 18 to 20, 23, 25, 32, 33, 35 and 37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 35 has been cancelled. The remainder of the claims are believed to be allowable as hinging from patentable base claims, as discussed in sections 1 and 2 above.

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It is believed that claims 1, 3, 6, 9, 11 to 25, 30 to 33, 35 and 37 to 39 are now in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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